

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9504
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2253

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: MADRID-BASED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MOVE TOWARD FORMATION OF
"CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION"

REF: MADRID 2118

1. JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, PRESIDENT OF "IZQUIERDA DEMOCRATICA"
(ID) STATED PUBLICLY THIS WEEK THAT THE PLANNED SUNDAY MEETING
OF ID AND JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES' "FEDERACION POPULAR DEMO-
CRATICA" (FPD) WILL APPLY THE FINAL TOUCHES TO AN AGREEMENT
WHICH WILL BRING THE TWO PARTIES TOGETHER IN A "FEDERACION
DEMOCRATA CRISTIANA." ID'S ANTONIO VAZQUEZ TOLD EMBOFF
PRIVATELY THAT THIS FEDERATION AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL NAME RUIZ
GIMENEZ PRESIDENT AND PROVIDE FOR A UNIFIED EXECUTIVE
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COMMITTEE TO MANAGE FEDERATION AFFAIRS, WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR
A POST-ELECTION MERGER PROBABLY TO BE CONSUMMATED THROUGH THE
HOLDING OF A "CONSTITUENT" ASSEMBLY.

2. WHILE RUIZ GIMENEZ WAS PUBLICLY OPTIMISTIC THAT ALVAREZ DE
MIRANDA'S "PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO" (PPDC) ALSO
WOULD JOIN IN THIS FEDERATION AGREEMENT (AND, BY IMPLICATION,

LEAVE "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO"), ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA'S OWN STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT CONTINUE TO BE AMBIGUOUS. ACCORDING TO VAZQUEZ, ID AND FPD DO NOT, IN FACT, KNOW WHAT ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA WILL DECIDE TO DO, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THEIR SUNDAY MEETING WILL CONCLUDE WITHOUT ANY SURE INDICATION OF HIS INTENTIONS, SINCE HE WILL BE CHAIRING A SUNDAY MEETING OF PPDC OFF IN ASTURIAS. AS VAZQUEZ DESCRIBED IT, ID AND FPD WANT PPDC TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO LINK UP WITH THEM SO THAT A UNIFIED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY CAN BEGIN SERIOUSLY TO ADDRESS ELECTION ISSUES. ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESIRES TO WAIT FOR SUAREZ TO MAKE HIS DECISION ON ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION BEFORE PPDC MAKES ANY MOVES ON ITS OWN, EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR PPDC'S APPARENTLY ON-TRACK MERGER TALKS WITH THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UDE (REFTEL).

3. RUIZ GIMENEZ WANTS A UNIFIED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "TEAM," WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A 3-PARTY "FEDERACION DEMOCRATA CRISTIANA" AND THE "TEAM'S" 4 REGIONAL PARTIES--THE BASQUE PNV, CATALAN UDC, VALENCIAN UDPV, AND GALICIAN PPG--WHICH HE HOPES WOULD RECEIVE 25 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. A DIVIDED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY WOULD FARE SUBSTANTIALLY WORSE. THIS WOULD MAKE IT THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT ELECTORAL GROUPING AFTER FRAGA'S ALIANZA POPULAR, VAZQUEZ SAID, WHICH WILL GARNER 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE BECAUSE OF ITS STRENGTH IN RURAL AREAS AND SMALL TOWNS. (ALL THIS, OF COURSE, IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE.)

4. VAZQUEZ VIEWED THE QUESTION OF ELECTORAL TACTICS AS STILL VERY MUCH OPEN AND FORESAW SOME SORT OF ELECTORAL COOPERATION IN THE LOWER HOUSE CONTEST BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC

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"TEAM" AND THE "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO," ALTHOUGH IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL EXACTLY WHAT FORM THIS COOPERATION WOULD TAKE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, VAZQUEZ STATED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD NOT DISTANCE THE CD "TEAM" FROM THE PSOE--WHICH THE "TEAM" DOES NOT WANT TO ISOLATE ON THE LEFT WITH THE COMMUNISTS --BECAUSE THERE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE AN EXPLICIT "COMPROMISO CONSTITUCIONAL" INVOLVING THE "TEAM," THE PSOE AND OTHER MAJOR GROUPS WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THE GENERAL LINES OF THE DESIRED NEW CONSTITUTION. (PSOE LEADER ENRIQUE MUGICA TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THE PSOE AND CD "TEAM" WERE HARD AT WORK ON JUST SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND THAT THEY HOPED TO BRING IN AS MANY OTHER MAJOR TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION GROUPS AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO" AND, AT THE LAST, EVEN THE PCE.) THERE PROBABLY WOULD ALSO BE BROAD ELECTORAL COOPERATION IN THE UPPER HOUSE CONTEST, VAZQUEZ ADDED, RUNNING FROM THE CENTER THROUGH THE PSOE. EATON

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